

Remarks/Arguments

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 13 and 26 have been revised to clarify that the wafer support is unbiased during film deposition.

Further, by this Amendment, dependent claim 6 has been revised to correct a typographical error.

Still further, by this Amendment, new dependent claims 36-43 are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

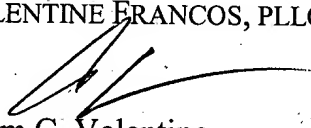
Accordingly, claims 1-23, 25-28 and 30-43 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1-23 and 25-35 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Tsukune et al. (EP 0519079). On May 27, 2003¹, Applicants filed a Request For Reconsideration containing arguments traversing the rejection based on Tsukune et al. A copy of the Request is attached and is incorporated herein by reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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¹ No Office Action has been received in response to the Request For Reconsideration. In a June 30, 2003, telephone conference with the Examiner, the Examiner informed the undersigned that Patent Office computer records showed no indication of the filing of the Request For Reconsideration. Accordingly, on that same date and as suggested by the Examiner, the undersigned sent a facsimile copy of the Request, with a cover letter addressed to the Examiner and Art Unit 2812. In another telephone conference of August 12, 2003, the Examiner again indicated that he had no indication of the filing of the Request For Reconsideration. As such, on that same date, the undersigned sent another facsimile copy of the Request, with a cover letter addressed to the Examiner and Art Unit 2812. No response has been received.